

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016**

**Communications Portfolio**

**nbn**

**Question No: 91**

**nbn**

**Hansard Ref: Page 106, 09/02/2016**

**Topic: Satellite capacity - Queenstown**

**Senator Conroy, Stephen asked:**

**Senator CONROY:** I will just go back to the Queenstown conversation you were having before. My recollection—I am happy to be corrected—is that Queenstown's spot beam was already a relatively congested spot beam because of the number of other premises that were going to be covered in that footprint before you added Queenstown. Could you give us an indication—and you can take it on notice—of how many homes were inside that spot beam before you added Queenstown, and obviously how many you have now added? My rough recollection is that that is now a very crowded spot beam with it having been added in.

**Mr Morrow:** We will take that on notice.

**Senator CONROY:** Do you have any idea off the top of your head? I appreciate you may not.

**Mr Morrow:** I do not. I do know, as I said, that before we even considered repurposing the second satellite there were a number of what we call stress beams that we were going to have to find an ulterior solution to. We would have to put up fixed wireless towers, pull more customers off, extend the fixed line footprint of fibre to the premises and fibre to the-node in those areas. This was always something that has been on the to-do list as we move forward. Whether this portion of Tasmania fell into that category I could not tell you, but we will take on notice the number of homes that were originally in that beam and what changes were made.

**Answer:**

The original number of premises covered by beam 54 was 8,497.

In April 2015, Queenstown added 1,578. At the same time nbn performed beam balancing and redistribution (called “beam scalloping”) with neighbouring beams 55 and 56 removing 1,990.

Following further planning and allocation to satellite, Fixed Wireless and Fibre-to-the-Node planning, beam 54 is expected to cover 7,671.